

MAG HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 25, 2005

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
ATTENDING

\*Councilmember Rob Antoniak, City of Goodyear  
\*Councilmember Roy Delgado, City of El Mirage  
Charlene Moran Flaherty, DES/CSA  
\*Councilmember Joe Johnson, City of Surprise  
Councilmember Kyle Jones, City of Mesa  
\*Councilmember Doug Lingner, City of Phoenix  
\*Councilmember Marie Lopez-Rogers, City of Avondale, Vice Chair  
Councilmember Manuel Martinez, City of Glendale  
\*Jim McCabe, Area Agency on Aging  
Carol McCormack, Mesa United Way  
\*Councilmember Larry Morrison, Town of Gilbert  
Councilmember Kevin Osterman, City of Scottsdale  
Janet Regner, Representative for Tempe Community Council

\*Vice Mayor Phillip Westbrooks, City of Chandler  
Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County, Chair

OTHERS PRESENT

Blue Crowley, Citizen  
Maureen DeCindis, MAG  
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG  
Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix  
Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert  
Connie James, City of Scottsdale  
Terri Leija, Board of Supervisors-S  
Belen Martinez, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust  
Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council  
Amy St. Peter, MAG  
Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.  
+Those members present by audio/videoconferencing.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. Chair Wilcox introduced herself as the new Chair. Introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

Blue Crowley complimented the census committee at MAG but emphasized that human services clients need to be represented in the count. He asked each member to assist with outreach. There are not enough beds for all the homeless people. He said he did not see where homeless people were counted if they were gypsies or lived in cars. He referred to the homeless plan update and the annual transit report. He stated that there are 6,914 bus stops but not all are covered. He encouraged that all bus stops should be covered. Mr. Crowley said there is a lot of money being invested but perhaps not in the right places. Homeless people are dying because there is not enough money being spent to help them. He said there are no bathrooms available to women after 7:00 p.m. on the

public transit system. He stated that bathrooms and showers could be made available if the money was spent differently. Mr. Crowley emphasized the need to take care of people. He thanked the committee for their time and asked the members to make the suggested changes.

3. Approval of January 20, 2005 Human Services Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes and review of April 14, 2005 meeting minutes.

Chair Wilcox postponed this item due to lack of quorum.

4. Transfer of leadership for HSCC

Amy St. Peter expressed thanks for Councilmember Lingner's tenure as Chairperson and said the committee is thankful he will remain as a member. She introduced Supervisor Wilcox as the new Chairperson and thanked her for accepting the position. Ms. St. Peter announced Councilmember Lopez-Rogers as the new Vice Chairperson. She expressed regrets on behalf of Councilmember Lopez-Rogers for not being able to attend the meeting. Everyone applauded Supervisor Wilcox.

Chair Wilcox stated that she might want to do some things differently as the committee has changed a lot. She said she is aware of the work of the other committees and has asked the chairs and vice chairs of the MAG Human Services Committees to meet so they may discuss the possible restructuring of the committees. Chair Wilcox commented that there is a limited amount of time and they may want to combine some activities to make their work more efficient. Chair Wilcox said she has reviewed the minutes of the other committees and noticed a few were engaged in strategic planning that is very important. She expressed a desire for HSCC to be more active. This is an ongoing process that may include doing surveys for new ideas.

Chair Wilcox said she welcomes discussions and if a committee is working well then there may not be a change. She stated the dilemma is that popular issues tend to spin off into new committees and this may not be appropriate years later. She commended the Regional Domestic Violence Council and the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness for their great work, but said she may recommend these committees be more integrated into HSCC. Chair Wilcox encouraged all to approach her or Councilmember Lopez-Rogers with ideas. She said she hopes the committees will be more efficient and productive when this process is done.

5. Human Services Committees Reports

- Human Services Technical Committee: Marge Leyvas, Chair of the Data Analysis Work Group, offered a report on their work. She said there is currently no central source for human services data. The work group plans to conduct an assessment of all relevant sources and to offer a central place for data on the MAG website.

Ms. Leyvas continued by reporting on data for the Regional Human Services Plan. She presented the following recommendations: discontinue the welfare reform section, keep the disability sections separate, offer more data on housing and employment, include funding and capacity as chapter, discuss the

philosophy of human services in the introduction, and provide an analysis of best practices and solutions. The work group is collaborating with MAG GIS and human services divisions to collect and analyze the data. She concluded by saying the work group is reviewing the issues presented at the public meetings and focus groups and would take recommendations from HSCC and HSTC.

Amy St. Peter referred the group to the handouts available for the meeting. This included summary sheets for the data collected through the focus groups, community hearings and surveys. The common trends included people wanting to be self-sufficient, to have a good support system and to be engaged with their community. The common areas were identified for the strengths, needs, solutions and unique qualities for each subcategory. Ms. St. Peter said analysis of the data would continue through the other committees. Reports would be available for HSCC in October. **Chair Wilcox asked that the survey be sent to all cities and to report back at the next meeting.**

- Regional Domestic Violence Council: Chair Wilcox held this item because Vice Mayor Westbrook was not available to offer the report.
- MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness: Councilmember Stanton thanked the committee for the invitation to the meeting. He said he was appointed the new Chair after Ernest Calderon and is trying to continue the success of the committee. Their activities include tracking the homeless plan and referred the group to the update. They have either completed or engaged 77 percent of the goals identified in the original plan. He thanked Chair Wilcox for her support of the Regional Plan to End Homelessness.

Councilmember Stanton stated the Continuum of Care is trying to maximize the amount of money received through the application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He said with the help of Amy St. Peter, they will apply again for HUD money this coming year. The money still doesn't fill all the needs and more money is available for beds but there is not enough for services. Councilmember Stanton reported there are a lot of providers with a lot of expertise who need supportive service money. He said we are all trying to end homelessness. The Continuum of Care active in sending letters to congressional delegation to support supportive service dollars.

Councilmember Stanton next commented on the heat emergency and expressed appreciation to all the support given during this time of crisis. A lot of time and resources have been spent to work with this very difficult problem. There were 31 deaths from July 16-31. The County is doing autopsy work to confirm the cause of death. The majority of the people who died were homeless. Councilmember Stanton cited the County, Arizona Department of Housing, the Department of Economic Security and others who gave money and resources to help. The City of Phoenix set up a cooling station with a bus to help people cool

down and opened libraries, senior centers, and family service centers for extended hours to keep people out of the heat. Saint Vincent de Paul stepped up and turned their dining hall into a temporary shelter serving over 100 people each night. APS helped with funding to make this possible. The Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness helped coordinate shelter and services with providers.

Councilmember Stanton continued by saying the outreach teams have increased their efforts and that he went out himself to hand out water. He expressed frustration when people didn't want to come in to shelter. He said Connections to Care, a program with the Phoenix Police Department, has been very successful in getting homeless people to come in for services to avoid jail. Councilmember Stanton said long term planning for future heat emergencies will occur in partnership with HSCC and the Continuum of Care. There is a real need to revise the current plan. It is not activated until the temperatures are 120 degrees for three straight days. In this case, the high temperatures at night created new problems and caused more deaths. Phoenix and the County will be working on a new emergency plan.

Janet Regner asked about the funding formula for energy assistance since there are more heat related deaths than cold related deaths in country. She said the current formula favors northeastern states instead of the southwest. Ms. Regner expressed disappointment with Senator Kyle's staff when they said they haven't made this a priority because they haven't received "enough phone calls from sweaty people". Ms. Regner recommended better education about the funding formula. Councilmember Stanton stated that it's worse than anyone could imagine with only 6% of those eligible actually receiving energy assistance because the funding formula is so skewed. He said he has written letters with Mayor Gordon to the congressional delegation in support of changing the funding formula but this really needs to be a grass roots effort. He commented that the recent deaths will hopefully bring these problems to light and bring about change.

Chair Wilcox commended Councilmember Stanton for his good work. She continued that an emergency team with a good cross section of people is needed. She emphasized the need for an overflow shelter without the normal rules and eligibility.

#### 6. Arizona Rides Update

Chair Wilcox introduced Maureen DeCindis, MAG, who offered a report on Arizona Rides. Ms. DeCindis referred the committee to a chart that showed 62 different funding sources for human services transportation. She pointed out there is considerable overlap. The federal government is trying to make the system more efficient and to utilize resources in a better way. To do so, the federal government is considering policy changes and removing traditional barriers. The federal government has given Arizona \$25,000 to hire a consultant group under ADOT to do a survey, measure resources and

coordinate transportation services. Pinal County is doing an assessment and trying to create a model coordination project. MAG has received \$65,000 in planning funds to do an assessment. Ms. DeCindis handed out a survey that is being administered to the community. She explained they just released the Request for Proposals to select the consultant. Once chosen, the consultant will analyze the data from the surveys and put together a plan for coordinating transportation services in the Valley. She explained that any agency receiving federal funds in the future will need to show they are coordinating efforts or they might not get federal funding for that program. It will be difficult to demonstrate partnerships with such a complicated program but they are forging ahead.

Chair Wilcox stated that she will give Ms. DeCindis a lot of credit if she can straighten out human services transportation. She asked if cities were all involved. Ms. DeCindis said she is working with each community. She said they will be tabulating the results for the consultant to analyze. Ms. DeCindis encouraged all the cities to get involved with this effort. Chair Wilcox asked if Ryan White services for HIV/AIDS clients were coordinated as part of this effort. Ms. DeCindis said she did not know. Chair Wilcox asked Ms. Leyvas to follow up with the County to see who hasn't done the survey yet. She then asked Moe Gallegos to follow up with the City of Phoenix. Ms. DeCindis said she was excited for the opportunity to form partnerships. Charlene Flaherty said DES will follow up as well. Ms. DeCindis explained there are two levels within the state with the Arizona Rides Council and the work group. Chair Wilcox said that HSCC can monitor the city response. She asked Ms. DeCindis asked Maureen to follow up with HSCC about the response rate from the cities so HSCC can follow up. Ms. DeCindis explained the surveys are due in mid September. **Chair Wilcox asked Ms. DeCindis to email the list of people who received the survey so the HSCC members would know the appropriate contact person identified for their city.** Councilmember Jones asked if MAG wanted one response for each city and Ms. DeCindis confirmed that was the case.

#### 7. Announcements

There were no announcements. Chair Wilcox encouraged all to give feedback about the possible restructuring of the human services committees. She assured everyone there would be ample discussion before any decisions were made. While she may recommend more frequent meetings in the future, Chair Wilcox said the next HSCC meeting would be in October.

#### 8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Human Service Coordinating Committee will be on **Thursday, October 27 at 1:00 p.m.** at the MAG offices in the Cholla Room.